

Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2021, 4:30 pm.
Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom

Present: Tap Bui, Joe Caverly, Jeff Clayman, Joan Coulter, Cathy Glaser, Liz Landry, Jim Schneiders, Najah Shakir

Absent: Amritha Appaswami, Ruby Board, Tamika Duplessis, Jennifer Fallon, Mary Zervigon

Staff: Chanda Burks, Monique Cola, Melanie Flot, Christina Hull, Rosemary Szilagi

Foundation: Andrea Williams

Guests: Dominique Lucien, Derek Rankins, Susan Becker, Louis Williams

Notice of the meeting and agenda were emailed to the school faculty and staff, as well as posted at the school and on the school website in accordance with the open meetings law.

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education was called to order by the Board Vice President, Joe Caverly, on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 4:32 pm. Roll call was done of the Advocates attending the virtual meeting and there was not a quorum until 4:38pm.

The March 18, 2021 Advocates Board Meeting minutes were presented and approved. Cathy Glaser moved for approval and Jim Schneiders seconded.

Financial Report: (Melanie Flot/Jim Schneiders)

- **Accounts Receivable:** As of 3/31/2021, there was \$326,125 in accounts receivable.
- **Profit & Loss:** The P & L shows a net loss of \$135,641.
- **Finance Dashboard:** Bank reconciliation reflects the register balance at the end of March 31, 2021 was \$1,857,835. The book cash balance value as of April 7, 2021 is \$1,876,454 representing approximately four months of cash on hand. Finance forecasts approximately \$538,845 income in April 2021. Finance forecasts approximately \$556,133 expenses in the month of April 2021.

The MFP with an adjustment for additional students as of October 1st will be calculated and reported to schools this month and the Finance Committee will report the adjusted MFP at the May Board meeting. Jim Schneiders reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the summer school budget and budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Even though the summer school budget will be an additional expense, ESSER funds will be the primary funding source.

The Finance Report was received by the Board.

Head of School Report – April 15, 2021: (Dr. Monique Cola)

I. Dashboard

A. Enrollment:

	Targets 2020-21	April 15, 2021	Oct. 1 2020
9th	140	146	145
10th	125	127	134
11th	125	111	114
12th	115	102	111
TOTAL	505	486	504

- Socioeconomic Data: Economically disadvantaged – 379 (77.5%. as per LDOE 2/1/21); 178 (36% Free/Reduced Lunch [vs. 254 (55%) in 2019])
- Special Education: IEPs – 57; 504s – 38; 11 – ELL (21% total)

B. School Culture: Attendance

- Semester 1: Daily Average = 83%
- Semester 2: Daily Average = 86.0%
- Year 20-21: Daily Average = 84.5% (vs. 92.5% in 2019)

II. Updates

A. One App Main Round: 620 Total Students

386 Returning Students; 234 New Matches (200 Freshmen & 34 Upper Class Matches)
2021-2022 Target goal may be 590 to take in account for attrition. Our registrar is reaching out to prospective 9th grade matches to submit their registration paperwork. We are being conservative by budgeting for 485 students; then we will adjust as the One App numbers begin to increase since the MFP is going down about 5.6%. The goal is to keep expenses as low as possible. 590 students will be between 3 to 4 additional students per class which will not affect our staffing.

B. Specialized furniture has arrived and we are in the process of completing additional school branding.

C. Small group and individual building tours conducted by FSME will begin soon.

D. Graduation will be at UNO Lakefront Arena on May 26th at 3:00pm. Due to COVID restrictions we are only being allowed to have a 90 minute graduation. We will most likely eliminate a keynote speaker in order to have enough time to acknowledge our seniors.

III. Highlights

A. Please Support Sci High students as they participate once again for the Louisiana Film Prize, Jr. It's audience choice: Stream the video & Vote & share for Sci High Student Film!

B. Kudos to the Wellness team for Wellness Wednesday for staff at noon on Wednesdays and Friday Night Hype to break the social isolation of our students. We had such a great response from the students that attended that they will be allowed to return the following Friday ONLY if they bring a new student. Two students that have been virtual only for class have entered the building and attended Friday Night Hype.

- C. Sci High students are ready to be our future small business owners and leaders in the workforce world! Two of our students received high praises from Sherwin Williams Paint Company for how well they performed in their interview evaluations.
- D. COVID 19 Update: Children’s Hospital administered vaccinations to Sci High faculty and staff. 80% of respondents to the survey will be vaccinated (32 of 40).

The Head of School Report was received by the Board.

Report of the Foundation: (Andrea Williams)

Andrea Williams reported that the FSME has \$153,166 committed to educational programming for the current fiscal year. \$86,500 has been received. An additional \$85,000 in proposed funding is pending from fall and spring grant submissions. Our initial request to Goldring was \$15,000 but we were awarded \$30,000 for Internships. Rollover funds from last year have helped us meet our current fiscal year goal of \$175,000. Without adding last year’s rollover funds, we are 87% complete of attaining the \$175,000 goal. We will have our second feedback meeting with Baptist Community Ministries and reapply. Karr4Kids and Walmart Foundation are new grants and Toshiba Foundation will be taken off the list since we’ve never received a response. Andrea Williams thanked the Advocates for rocking at fulfilling their annual pledges; we have 3 Board members that still have to submit their pledge forms. She thanked the Board for donating more than last year! A link was attached for Advocates to sign up for school tours and a notification that a GiveNOLA email will be coming soon.

The Foundation Report was received by the Board.

Report of the Chair:

No Updates

Committee Reports:

Governance: No Updates.

Head of School: Tap Bui updated that the committee will meet next week on Thursday, April 22nd to discuss the school faculty/staff survey and 360 review for Dr. Cola.

Facilities: No Updates.

Public Comments: Jim Schneiders wanted administration to let the faculty and staff know that the Board is aware of the difficult circumstances of the last eighteen months. The efforts of faculty and staff have been extraordinary and are appreciated by the Board.

With no other business to discuss, Liz Landry made a motion for the Board to adjourn and it was seconded by Joan Coulter. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm. The meeting was also being recorded.

Respectfully submitted,
Chanda Burks, Executive Assistant to Head of School